

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

In response to the Office Action dated December 14, 2007, claim 15 has been amended. Claims 15 and 16 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-14 are cancelled. Claim 15 is independent. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

I. Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibata (U.S. Patent 5,684,864) in view of Ozeki et al. (U.S. Patent 5,872,641) and Ritzerfeld (U.S. Patent 4,129,073) and Nishi (Japanese Patent No. 61-84659). The Examiner admits that Shibata, Ozeki et al., and Ritzerfeld do not teach that a number of copies repeatedly printed are pre-stored in the communication apparatus. Nishi has been relied upon by the Examiner as disclosing a system capable of controlling the number of copies of a document in such a manner that the number of copies preset in an IC card can be copied when the identification received from an input means is correct.

However, what is disclosed in Nishi is a card that stores an identification number and a number of copies that is permitted. Once a user inserts the card in the machine, the user inputs the identification number of the card via control part and a comparison is made in a comparator between the number of copies set in the card and the set number of copies stored in memory 6 of the machine. At every copying, the numerical value in the card is subtracted and a coincidence

signal is emitted from the comparator and copying is stopped when the number of copies is made zero in the remaining copiable number.

In contrast, the present invention pre-stores a number of copies to be printed of the entire document that is received. In addition, this pre-stored number of copies is stored in correspondence to the pre-stored identification signal. That is, for each pre-stored identification signal, a number of copies to be printed of the entire document received can be pre-stored in correspondence thereto (see page 78, lines 2-12 of the present application).

To expedite prosecution, independent claim 15 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*:

...
a communication device for receiving an identification signal from an originating communication apparatus, the identification signal identifying the originating communication apparatus, and performing an output operation when the received identification signal from the originating communication apparatus coincides with a pre-stored identification signal, wherein

a number of copies to be repeatedly printed is pre-stored in the communication apparatus in correspondence to the pre-stored identification signal, and

said output operation performed when the received identification signal from the originating communication apparatus coincides with the pre-stored identification signal includes an operation of repeatedly printing, on recording sheets, a plurality of copies of an image data signal representing the entire document being received to form a plurality of groups of the entire document received, with the number of groups formed of the entire document corresponding to the number of copies to be repeatedly printed that is stored in correspondence to said pre-stored identification signal.

If the card of Nishi were somehow used to modify Shibata, Ozeki et al. and Ritzerfeld, only a set number of copies would be permitted and when this number is met, copying would stop. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Nishi of setting a number of copies of groups to be formed of an entire document received. In a facsimile setting, for example, the number of pages

of a received document are not know until the document is received. Consequently, merely presetting the total number of copies using the card of Nishi would not result in repeatedly printing, on recording sheets, a plurality of copies of an image data signal representing the entire document being received to form a plurality of groups of the entire document received, with the number of groups formed of the entire document corresponding to the number of copies to be repeatedly printed that is stored in correspondence to the pre-stored identification signal, as now recited in amended independent claim 15. Therefore, amended independent claim 15 is patentable over Shibata, Ozeki et al., Ritzerfeld and Nishi.

II. Claim 16 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibata in view of Ozeki et al., Ritzerfeld and Nishi, and further in view of Hiroi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,269,503).

Hiroi et al. does not remedy the above-noted deficiency of Nishi and claim 16 depends from claim 15. Therefore, claim 16 is patentable over Shibata, Ozeki et al., Ritzerfeld, Nishi and Hiroi et al.

III. In view of the above, the allowance of claims 15 and 16, as amended, is respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

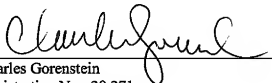
In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Edward J. Wise (Reg. No. 34,523) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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